



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 559

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7198

House of Representatives, April 9, 2019

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. STEINBERG of the 136th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-195q of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed master social worker"
4 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under
5 the description of a licensed master social worker, as defined in section
6 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a master social worker
7 pursuant to this chapter.

8 (b) No person shall (1) use the title "licensed clinical social worker"
9 or any initials associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under
10 the description of a licensed clinical social worker, as defined in section
11 20-195m, unless such person is licensed as a clinical social worker
12 pursuant to this chapter.

13 (c) No person shall (1) use the title "social worker" or any initials

14 associated with such title, or (2) advertise services under the
15 description of "social worker", unless such person has earned a
16 baccalaureate, master's or doctorate degree in social work from a social
17 work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education or,
18 if educated outside of the United States or its territories, has completed
19 an educational program deemed equivalent by said council.

20 [(c)] (d) Nothing in this chapter shall prohibit: (1) A student enrolled
21 in a doctoral or master's degree program accredited by the Council on
22 Social Work Education from performing such work as is incidental to
23 his course of study, provided such person is designated by a title
24 which clearly indicates his status as a student; (2) a person licensed or
25 certified in this state in a field other than clinical social work from
26 practicing within the scope of such license or certification; (3) a person
27 enrolled in an educational program or fulfilling other state
28 requirements leading to licensure or certification in a field other than
29 social work from engaging in work in such other field; (4) a person
30 who is employed or retained as a social work designee, social worker,
31 or social work consultant by a nursing home or rest home licensed
32 under section 19a-490 and who meets the qualifications prescribed by
33 the department in its regulations from performing the duties required
34 of them in accordance with state and federal laws governing those
35 duties; [(5) for the period from October 1, 2010, to October 1, 2013,
36 inclusive, a master social worker from engaging in independent
37 practice; (6)] (5) a social worker from practicing community
38 organization, policy and planning, research or administration that
39 does not include engaging in clinical social work or supervising a
40 social worker engaged in clinical treatment with clients; [(7)] (6)
41 individuals with a baccalaureate degree in social work from a Council
42 on Social Work Education accredited program from performing
43 nonclinical social work functions; and [(8)] (7) a person who holds a
44 professional educator certificate issued by the State Board of Education
45 pursuant to section 10-145b, with a school social worker endorsement,
46 from using the title of school social worker to describe such person's
47 activities while working in a public or nonpublic school in the state.

48 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 20-195s of the general statutes is
49 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
50 *October 1, 2019*):

51 (a) An individual licensed as a master social worker pursuant to
52 section 20-195n may: (1) Practice clinical social work under
53 professional supervision; and (2) offer a mental health diagnosis
54 provided such diagnosis is offered in consultation with a physician
55 licensed pursuant to chapter 370, an advanced practice registered
56 nurse licensed pursuant to chapter 378, a psychologist licensed
57 pursuant to chapter 383, a marital and family therapist licensed
58 pursuant to chapter 383a, a professional counselor licensed pursuant to
59 chapter 383c or a clinical social worker licensed pursuant to this
60 chapter. [Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q, a] A
61 licensed master social worker may not engage in independent practice.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195q
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	20-195s(a)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Section 2(a), "Except as provided in subsection (c) of section 20-195q, a" was bracketed, the opening and closing brackets around "(c)" were deleted, "(d)" and "as amended by this act," were deleted and "A" was inserted after the closing bracket for consistency with the provisions of Section 1(d).

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which makes statutory changes concerning the use of the title "social worker" or any initials associated with such title, is not anticipated to result in a fiscal impact to the State or municipalities.

The Out Years**State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7198*****AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL WORKERS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill generally prohibits anyone from using the title “social worker,” or any associated initials, or advertising services as a social worker unless he or she (1) has a bachelor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree in social work from a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) or (2) if educated outside of the U.S. or its territories, completed an education program CSWE deems equivalent.

Existing law already prohibits anyone who is unlicensed from using the title of licensed master or clinical social worker or advertising services as such.

Due to an existing law, the bill does not prevent any person employed by the state prior to October 1, 1996, with a title in the social work series of the classified service from using such a title to describe or perform his or her duties (CGS § 20-195r).

The bill also makes technical changes, including deleting obsolete provisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

BACKGROUND***Related Bill***

HB 7292, favorably reported by the Labor Committee, prohibits anyone from using the title “social worker” or advertising clinical social work services unless he or she has a bachelor’s or master’s social work degree from a CSWE-accredited program or a doctorate social

work degree.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 21 Nay 0 (03/22/2019)